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TERRY DODSON &
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Darth Maul



DARTH MAUL

Book I, Part I

In the shadows, an ancient enemy stirs. The Sith – practitioners of the dark side of the Force long thought destroyed – secretly work to undermine and eventually overthrow the Jedi Order, the guardians of peace and justice in the galaxy.

Two members of the Sith order – Darth Sidious and his apprentice Darth Maul – secretly await their moment to strike. But while Sidious plans an intricate series of deceptions and machinations, Maul grows restless.

The moment of revenge is close at hand, and he is unwilling to wait much longer....

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Twon Ketee.

WATCH YOUR
SPACING.

GET TOO
CLOSE AND
I'M LIKELY TO BURN
YOUR FACES OFF
WHEN I CUT
LOOSE.

DON'T
GET TRIGGER-
HAPPY.

GOOD
LUCK GETTING
PAID IF YOU KILL
ONE OF 'EM
YOURSELF.

I KNOW
THE OP.

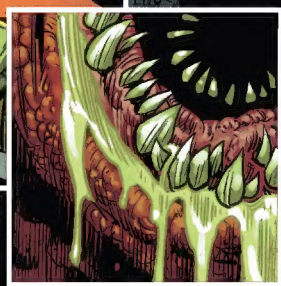
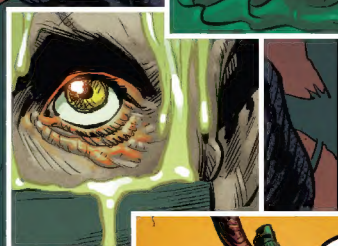
BIG GAME
HUNTER DOESN'T
WANT TO BREAK A
SWEAT WITH GRUNT
WORK.

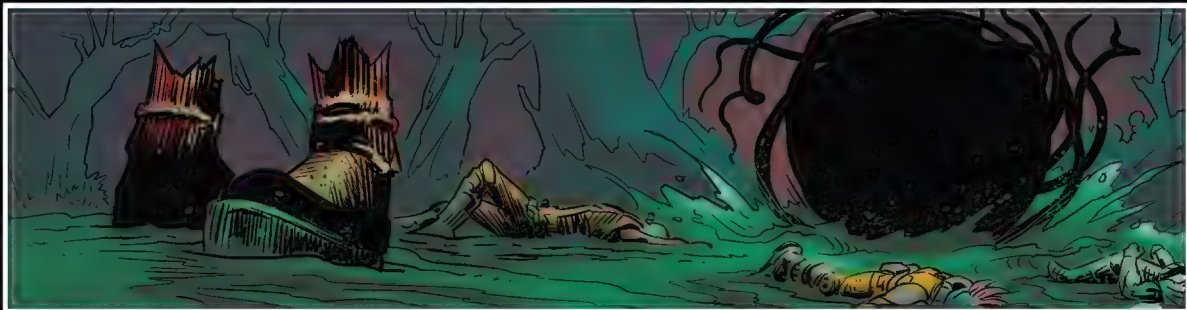
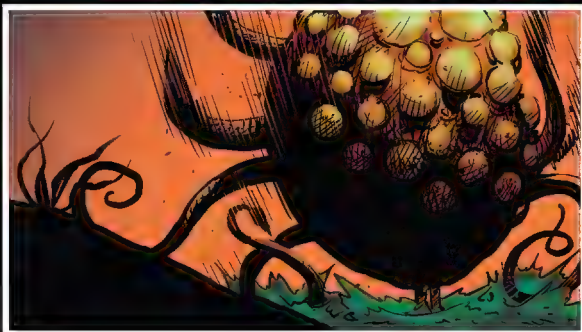
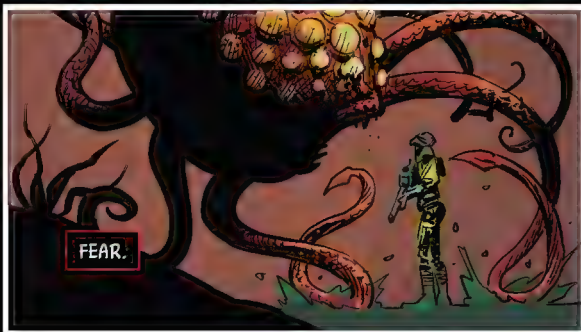
NEEDS
US TO FLUSH
THE PREY TO
HIM.

TELL ME
SOMETHING,
FELLAS.

DAYS LIKE
THIS, DO YA
FEEL LIKE THE
PREDATOR...

...OR THE--





THESE MARK THE
STEPS ALONG
THE PATH TO THE
DARK SIDE.

THESE ARE THE
WEAPONS OF
THE SITH.

AND I HAVE
TRAINED TO USE
THESE WEAPONS
WELL.

I AM
DARTH
MAUL.



RATHTARS ARE AMONG
THE MOST DANGEROUS
CREATURES IN THE GALAXY.



HUNGRY.

VICIOUS.

RELENTLESS.



WE ARE
SO ALIKE...

...AND YET SO
DIFFERENT.



AH,
YES.



PACK
HUNTERS.



GOOD.



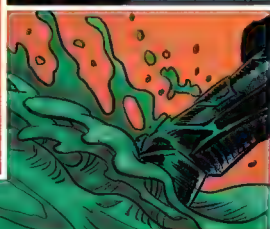
WHEN MY
AMUSEMENT
HAS REACHED
ITS END...



...MY BLOODLUST
WILL STILL NOT BE
TEMPERED.



THE THRILL
OF THE HUNT...



...THE RUSH OF
DEFYING DEATH...

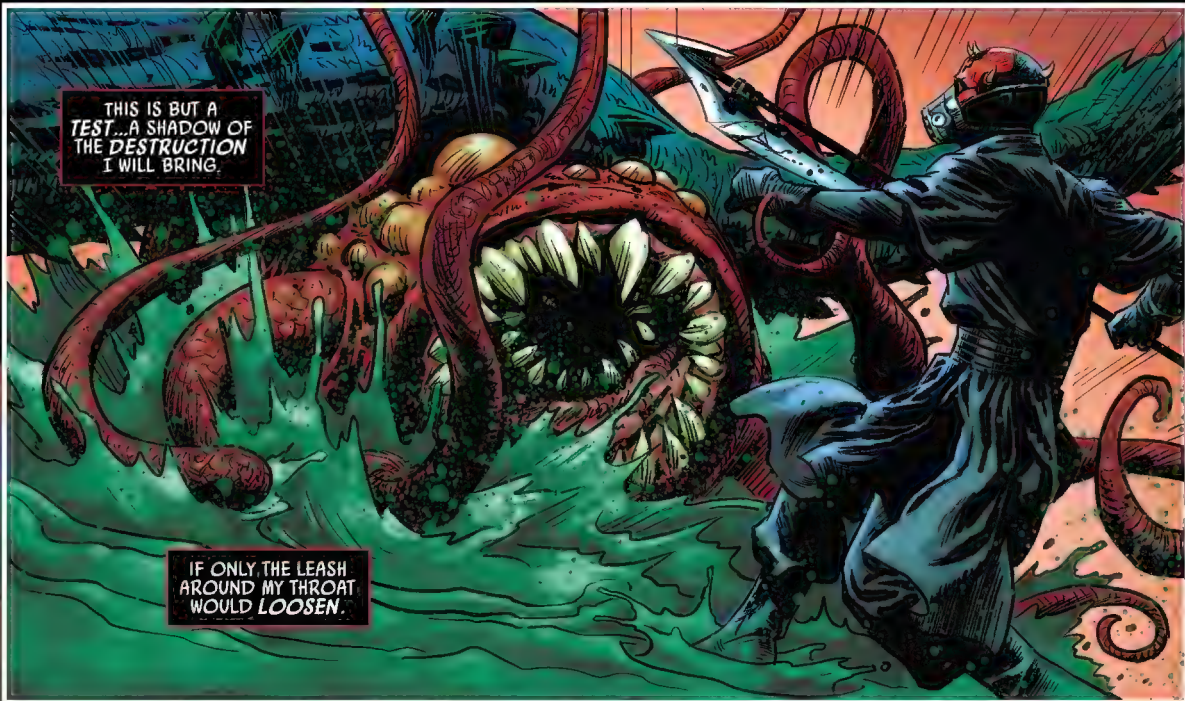


...WILL PASS ALL
TOO QUICKLY.

FIGHTING
RATHTARS IS A
HOLLOW MEAL.



KR-KRK-KRAK!



THIS IS BUT A
TEST...A SHADOW OF
THE **DESTRUCTION**
I WILL BRING.

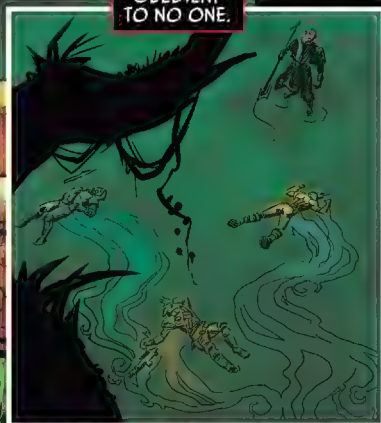
IF ONLY THE LEASH
AROUND MY THROAT
WOULD **LOOSEN**.



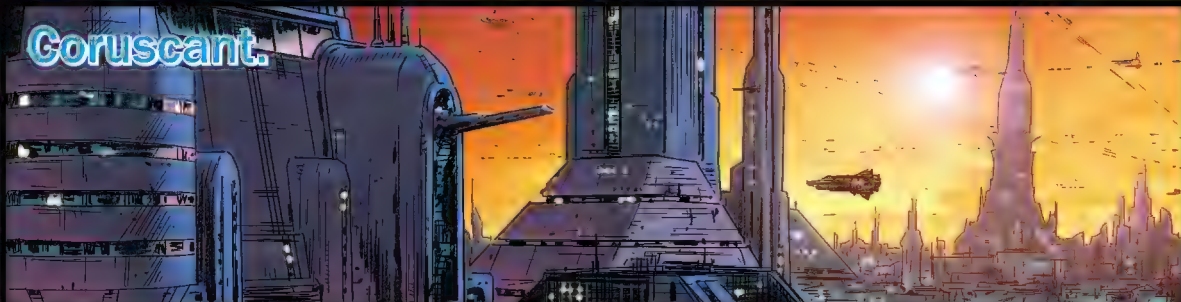
HUNGRY.

**VICIOUS AND
RELENTLESS.**

**OBEDIENT
TO NO ONE.**



**I ENVY
THEM THEIR
FREEDOM.**



Coruscant.



JEDI.

THE PEACEKEEPERS
OF THE GALACTIC
REPUBLIC.



COWARDS.

WALLOWING... HIDING
IN THE *PEACE*
THEY ENFORCE.



THEIR STRENGTH
IS *WANING*.

DEEP DOWN, THEY
KNOW THEY CANNOT
MAINTAIN *ORDER*
FOREVER.



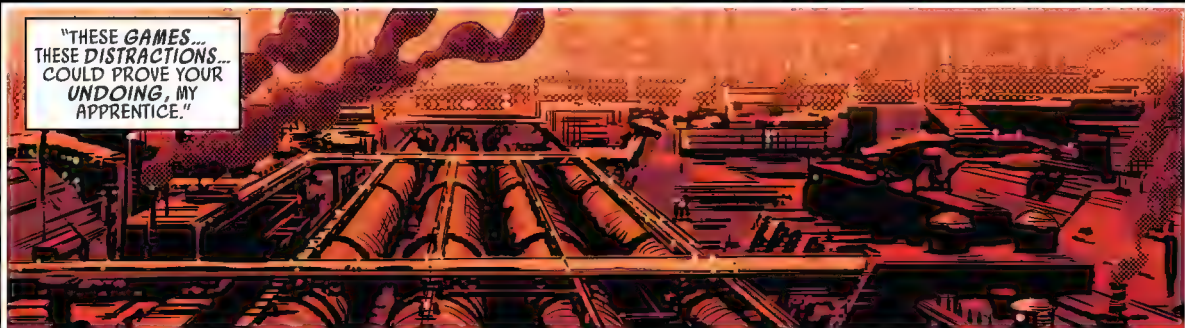
AND WHEN THEIR TIME
BEGINS TO TUMBLE
INTO *DARKNESS*...



...THEY WILL
FIND *ME* WAITING
FOR THEM.



"THESE GAMES...
THESE DISTRACTIONS...
COULD PROVE YOUR
UNDOING, MY
APPRENTICE."



I HAVE
CAUTIONED YOU,
TIME AND AGAIN, TO
AVOID CONTACT
WITH THE JEDI.

YET YOU
CONTINUE TO TEST
THE BOUNDARIES
OF MY EDICTS.

I HAVE
INDULGED YOUR
VARIOUS HUNTING
EXPEDITIONS...ALLOWED
YOU TO TEST YOUR METTLE
AGAINST SOME OF THE
MOST RUTHLESS BEINGS
IN THE GALAXY...



...BUT TO
TOY WITH THE
JEDI...YOU RISK
TOO MUCH.

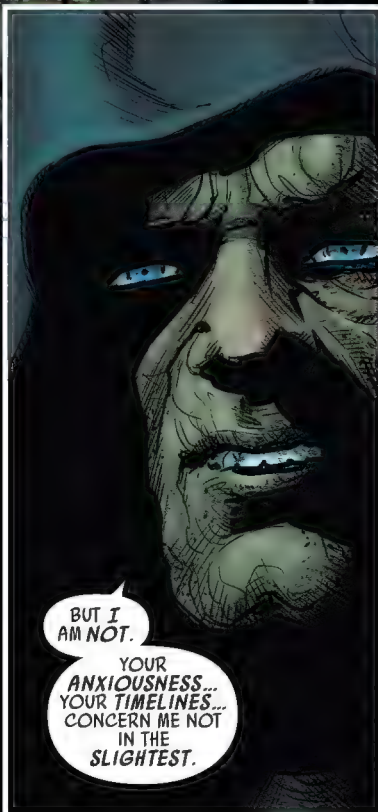
I ONLY
WISH TO PROVE
MYSELF, MY
MASTER.

I AM
READY--



BUT I
AM NOT.

YOUR
ANXIOUSNESS...
YOUR TIMELINES...
CONCERN ME NOT
IN THE
SLIGHTEST.



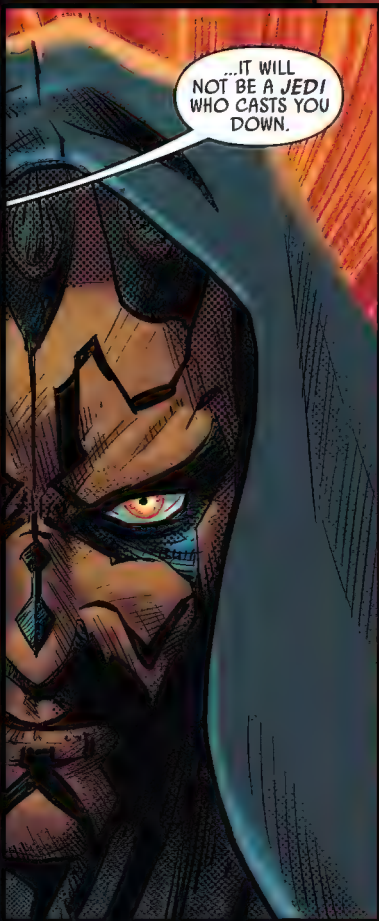
MY PLANS...
AND THE ACTIONS YOU
WILL TAKE IN THE NAME OF
THOSE PLANS...WILL UNFOLD
ACCORDING TO
MY WHIM.

HEED
MY WORDS,
MY YOUNG
STUDENT.

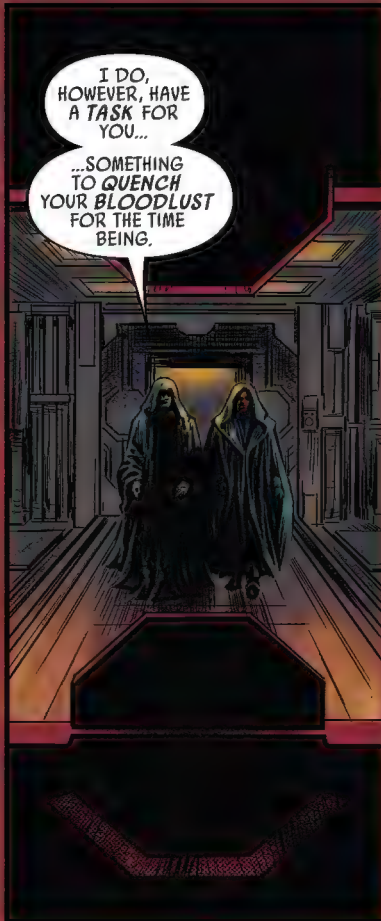


YOUR
ANGER...YOUR THIRST
FOR VENGEANCE...
MAKES YOU
FEARSOME.

BUT IF YOU
ENDANGER MY
PREPARATIONS
AND MANEUVERS
AGAIN...



...IT WILL
NOT BE A JEDI
WHO CASTS YOU
DOWN.



I DO,
HOWEVER, HAVE
A TASK FOR
YOU...

...SOMETHING
TO *QUENCH*
YOUR *BLOODLUST*
FOR THE TIME
BEING.



OUR ALLIES
IN THE *TRADE*
FEDERATION HAVE
REQUESTED
ASSISTANCE.

WHILE
ESTABLISHING
SECRET MINING FACILITIES
IN THE KELLUX SYSTEM, THEY
HAVE RUN AFOUL OF A
PARTICULARLY CUNNING
FACTION OF
PIRATES.



THEIR *DROID DEFENSES* HAVE
BEEN RENDERED INOPERABLE BY
MAKESHIFT *ELECTROSTATIC*
FIELD GENERATORS.

AND THEY
CANNOT REACH OUT
TO THE REPUBLIC FOR AID
WITHOUT REVEALING THEIR
UNSANCTIONED
ACTIVITIES.

I HAVE BEEN
ALERTED THANKS
ONLY TO MY OWN
VESTED INTERESTS
IN THE PROJECT.



AS YOU
WISH, MY MASTER.
I WILL DEPART
FOR KELLUX AT
ONCE.

REST
ASSURED, YOUR
INTERESTS WILL BE
PROTECTED.

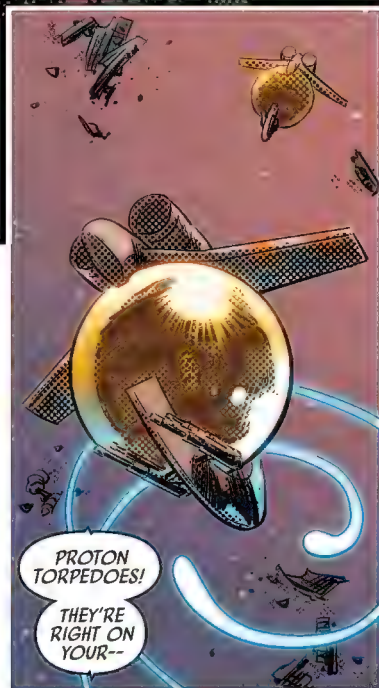
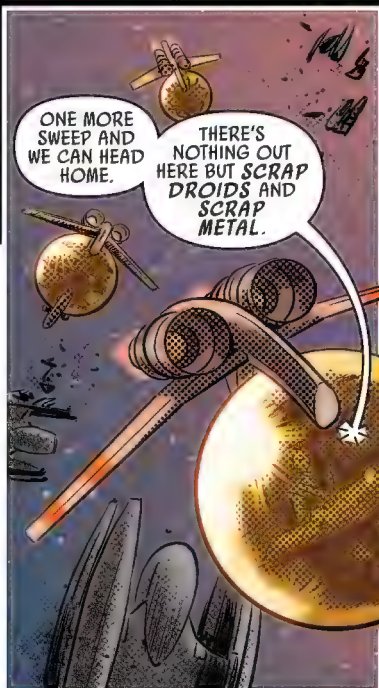


YES.

YES, OF
COURSE.

WHAT
ELSE WOULD
I EXPECT?

Kellux.





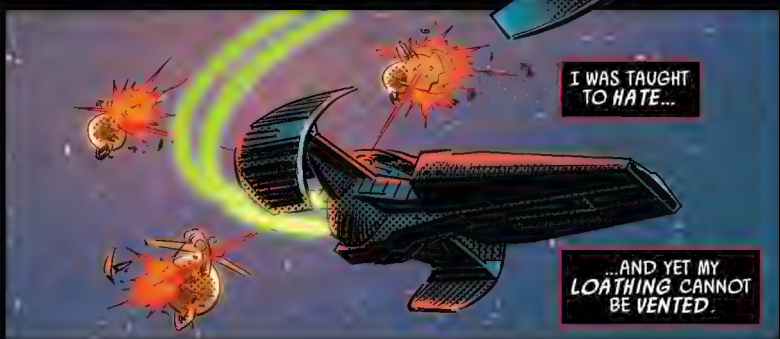
THE SITH
WORK IN THE
SHADOWS.

MY EXISTENCE
MUST REMAIN
A SECRET.

BUT THERE IS
RAPTURE IN THE
REVELATION.



MORE SCRAPS
FROM MY
MASTER'S TABLE.





IT IS AS WE SAID. WE HAVE POWERFUL ALLIES.

IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO SURRENDER AT ONCE.



ANOTHER WORD OUT OF YOU, AND WE'LL JETTISON YOU LIKE GARBAGE!

THERE'S JUST ONE SHIP OUT THERE.

THE ORB-WINGS SHOULD--



TH-THUMP



HE'S ALREADY ON BOARD!

HE'S BLASTING THROUGH THE DOOR!

GET READY! WHEN HE COMES THROUGH-- SHRED HIM!

IT IS STRANGE--
IRONIC--THAT I
HAVE BEEN URGED
TO GIVE IN TO
MY PASSION...

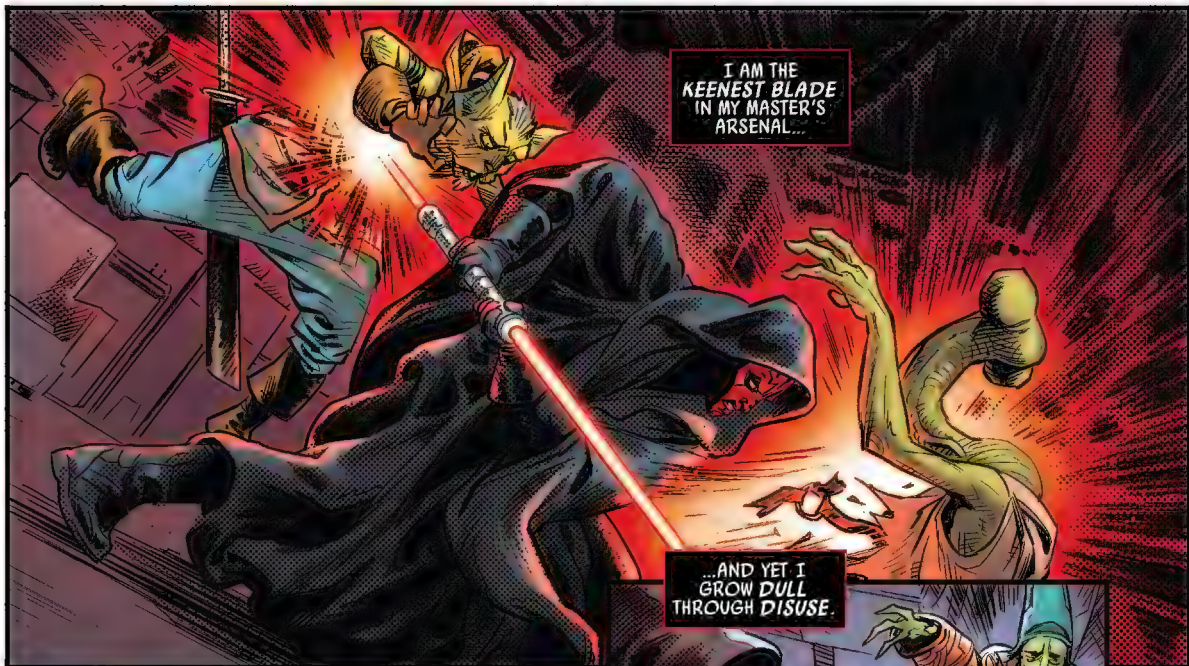
...MY
UNEASE...

...AND YET MY MASTER
COMMANDS ME TO
BIDE MY TIME.

BUT
SLAUGHTERING
PIRATES...

...HUNTING
BEASTS...

...WILL ONLY
DISTRACT ME
FOR SO LONG.



...AND YET I
GROW DULL
THROUGH DISUSE.

MY FRUSTRATION...
MY ANXIOUSNESS...

...MY DESIRE TO
TEST MYSELF
AGAINST THE JEDI...



...ONLY DEEPENS.





THE
LIGHTSABER...

...YOU...

...YOU'RE
A JEDI,
RIGHT?

I C-CAN
BARTER...TRADE
INFORMATION
FOR MY LIFE...



I
HAVE INTEL...
INTEL YOU'LL
DEFINITELY
WANT!

SPEAK.

I'LL
JUDGE IF
YOUR SECRETS
WARRANT
MERCY.



D-DOES THE
NAME XEV XREXUS
MEAN ANYTHING
TO YOU?

SHE'S THE
BOSS-MISTRESS
OF THE XREXUS
CARTEL.

AND SHE'S
CAPTURED HERSELF
A JEDI PADAWAN IF
RUMORS ARE T-TO BE
BELIEVED.

GONNA
AUCTION THE
PRISONER OFF...
AND YOU CAN BELIEVE
THERE'S MORE THAN
ONE CUTTHROAT OUT
THERE WHO'D LIKE
TO PLACE THE
WINNING BID.



WHERE?

Y-YOU
SEE? I KNEW WE'D
GET ALONG JUST
FINE.

WE CAN HELP
EACH OTHER OUT
A BIT, YEAH?

WHERE?

I DON'T
REALLY HAVE ANY
OTHER DETAILS,
BUT IF--



KRAK!

A PADAWAN
LEARNER...AN
APPRENTICE...
LIKE MYSELF...

...HELD PRISONER
AND OFFERED UP
FOR SACRIFICE
TO THE HIGHEST
BIDDER.

WELL
DONE! WELL
DONE!

YOU'VE
SAVED ME...

...AND YOU'VE
UNCOVERED
INFORMATION FOR WHICH
WE'LL BE REWARDED
GREATLY WHEN WE
INFORM LORD
SIDIOUS--

A PITY...
THE PIRATES KILLED
EVERYONE ON THIS
VESSEL BEFORE I
ARRIVED.

HRKK!

MY MASTER HAS
HIS SECRETS.

SO, TOO, DO
I HAVE MINE.

THIS PADAWAN...
A STUDENT OF EVERYTHING
I HAVE COME TO LOATHE...
AWAITS LIBERATION.

SURELY, IT WILL NOT BE LONG
BEFORE THE JEDI STAGE A RESCUE
OPERATION OF THEIR OWN.

BUT THEY
WILL BE
TOO LATE.

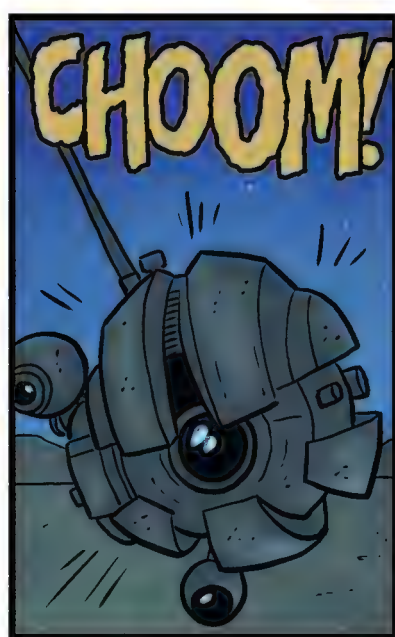
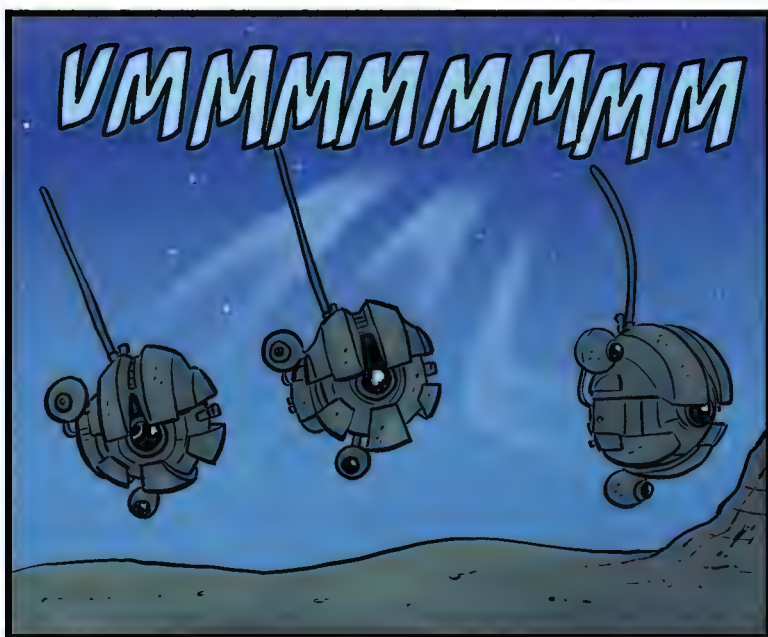
I WILL
GET THERE
FIRST.

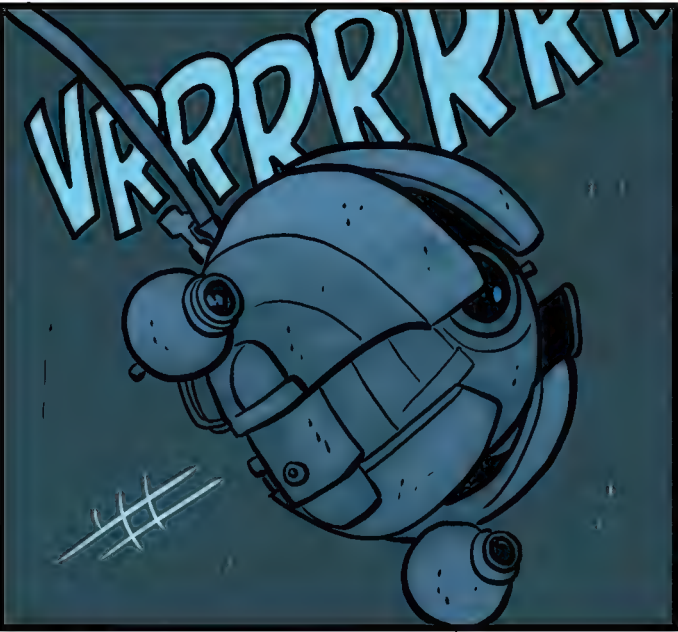
To be
continued...

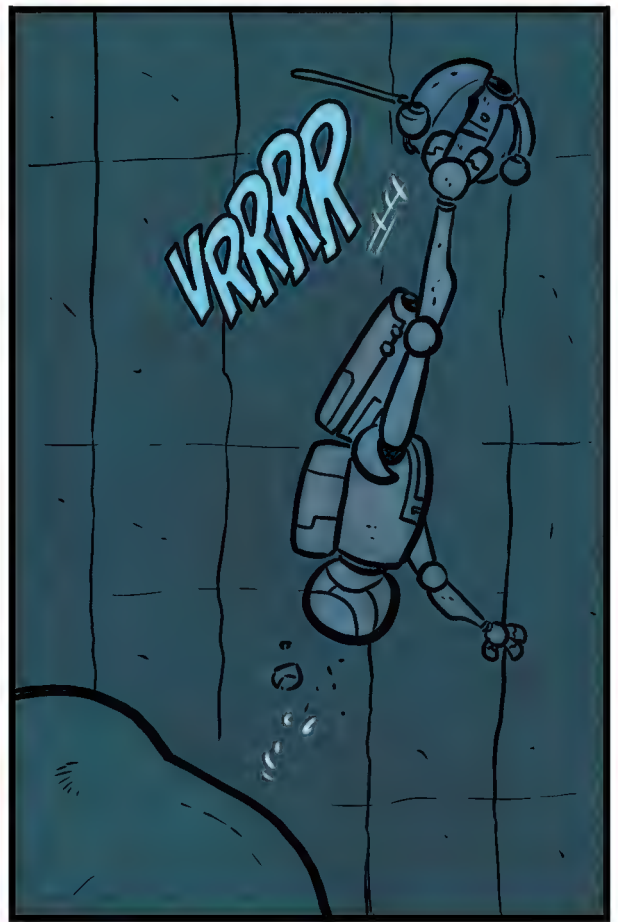
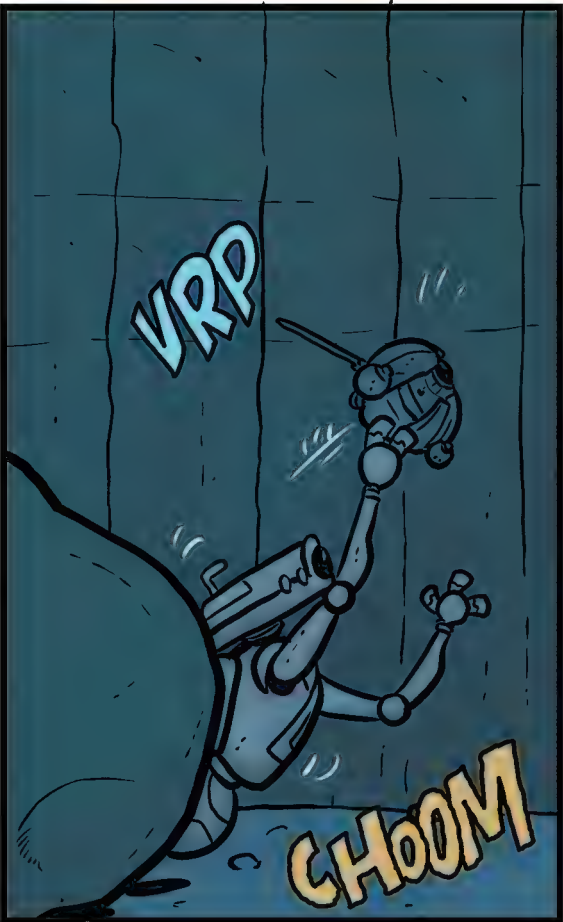
PROBE DROID PROBLEM

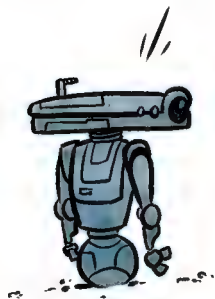
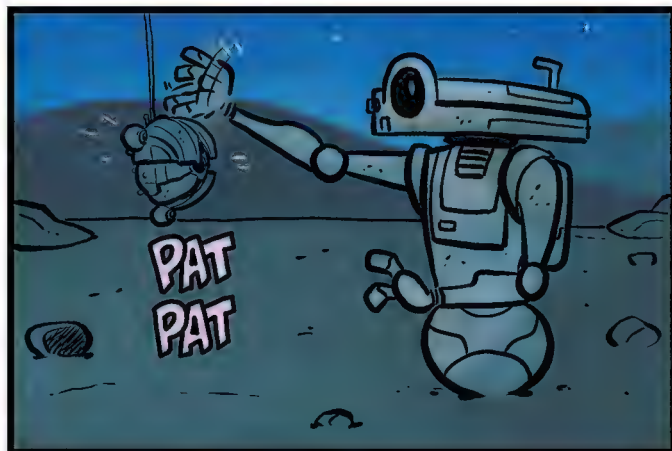
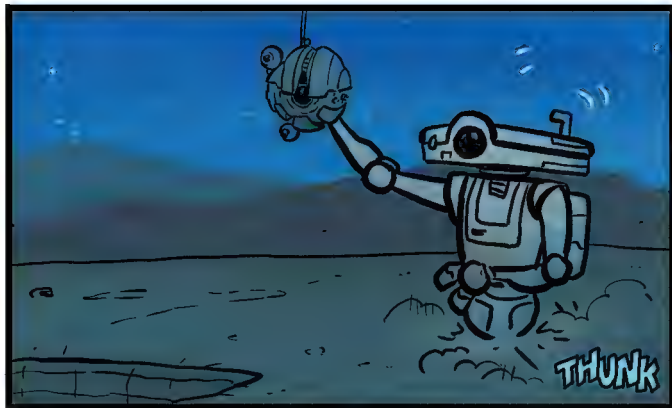
BY CHRIS
ELIOPOULOS
AND JORDIE
BELLAIRE

THESE EVENTS TAKE PLACE ON TATOOINE DURING THE PHANTOM MENACE.

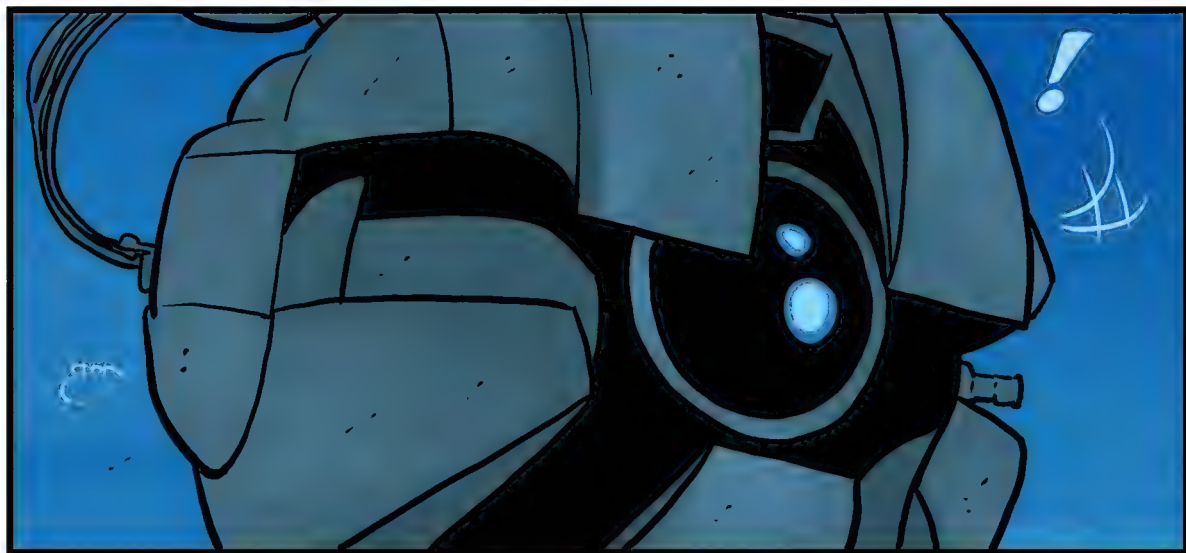


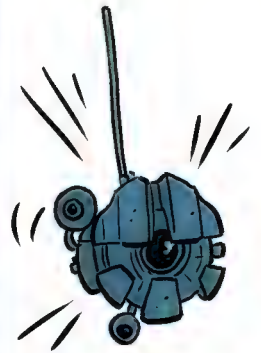
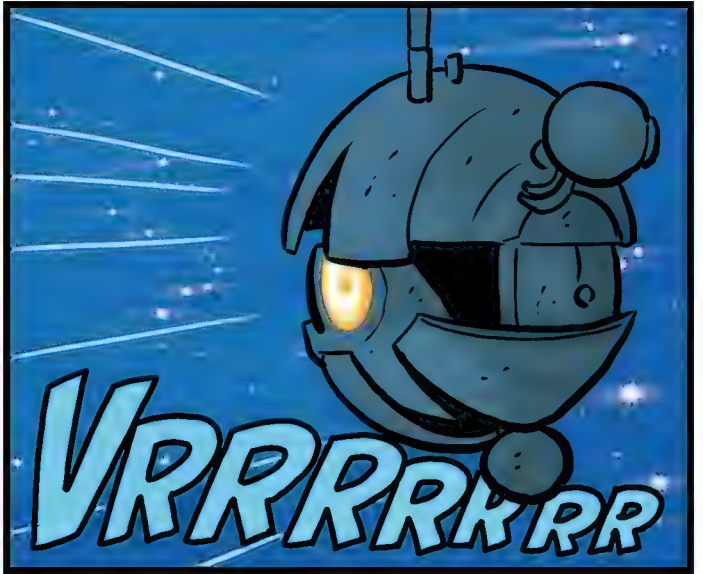
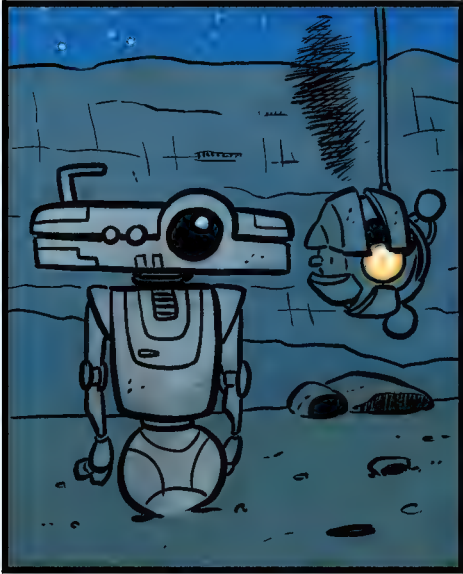
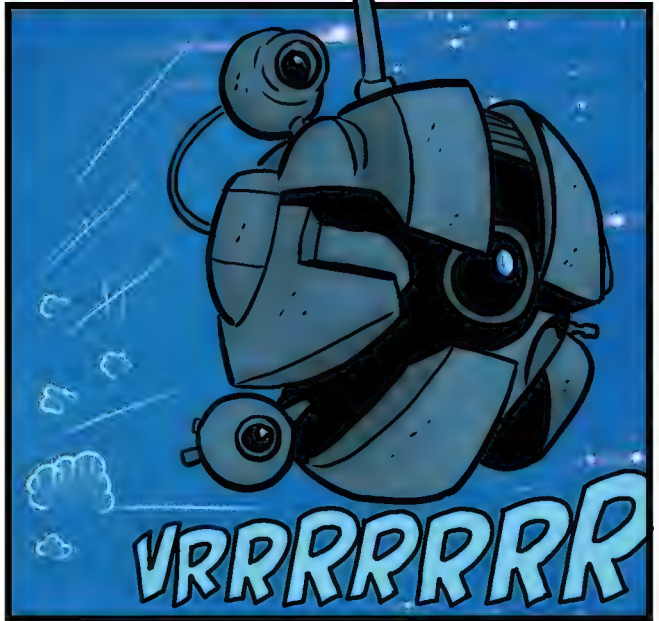
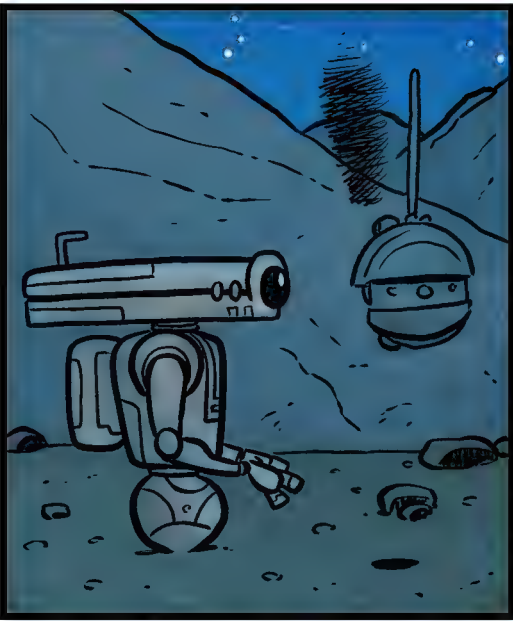


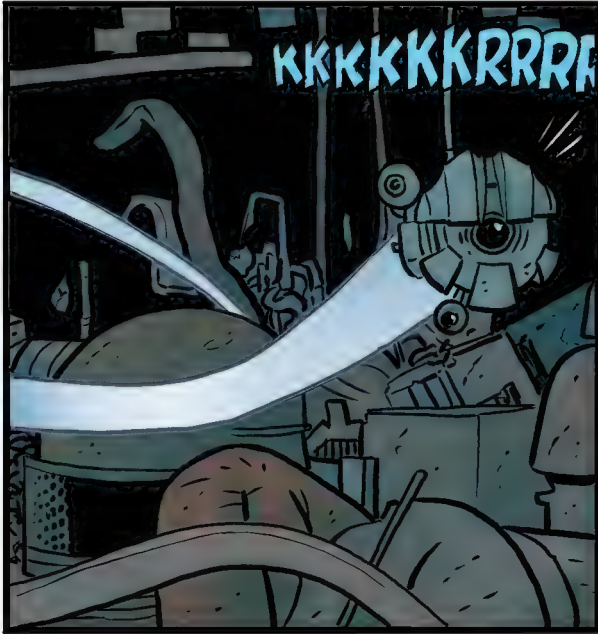
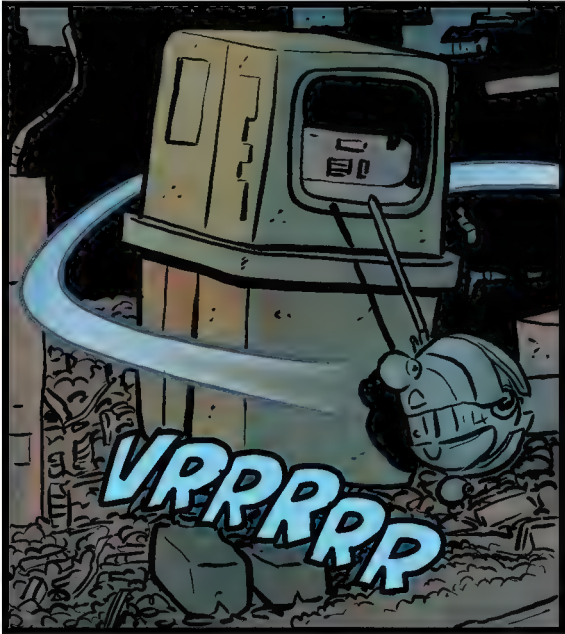
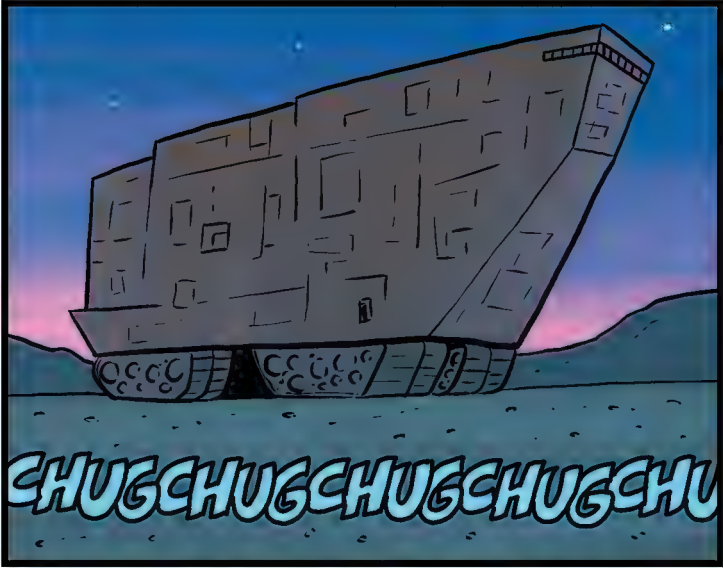
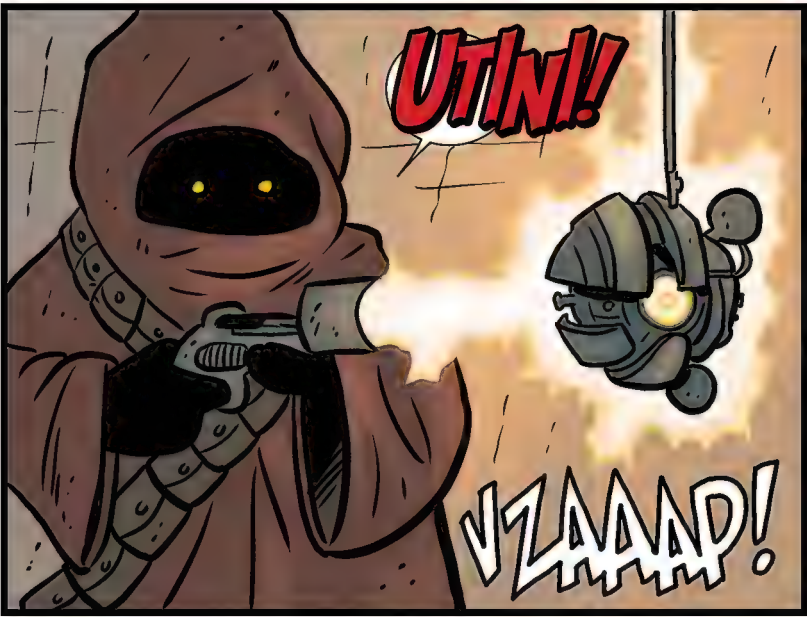




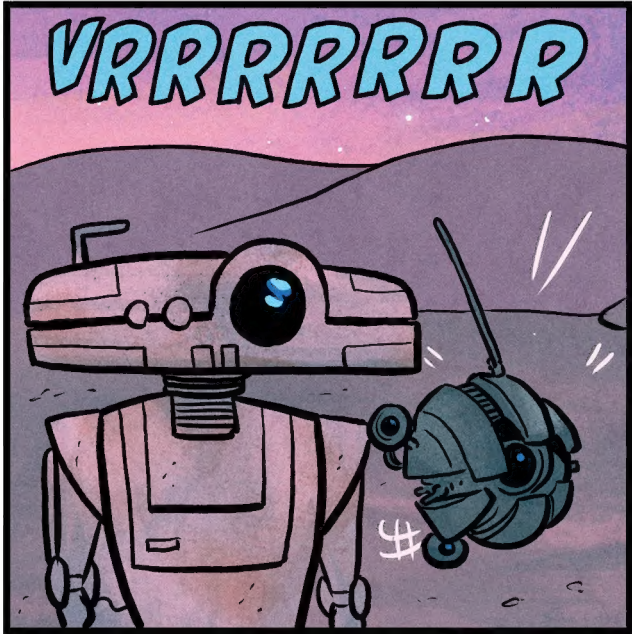
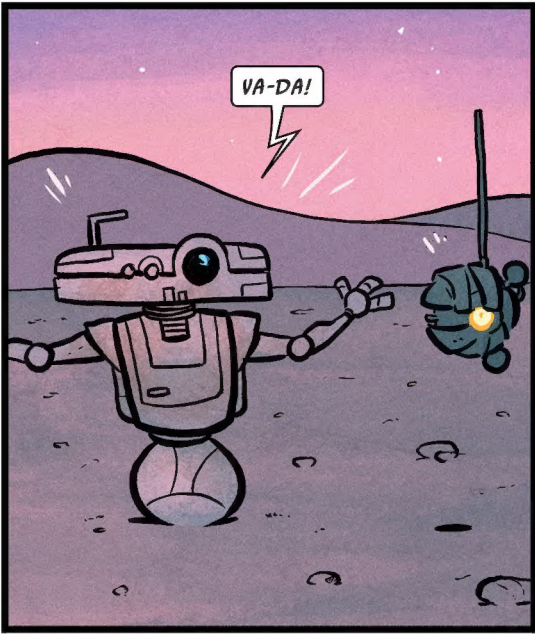
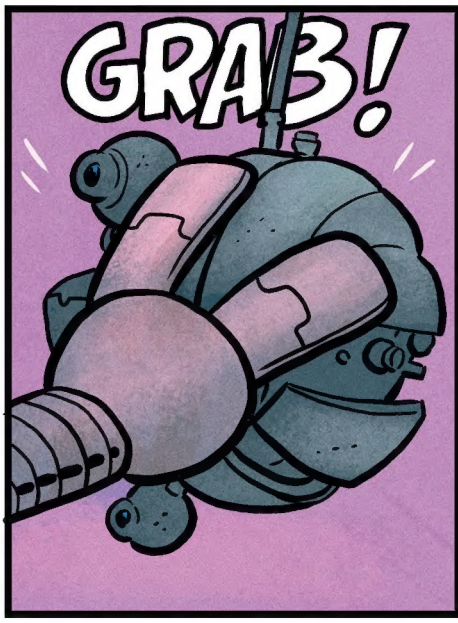
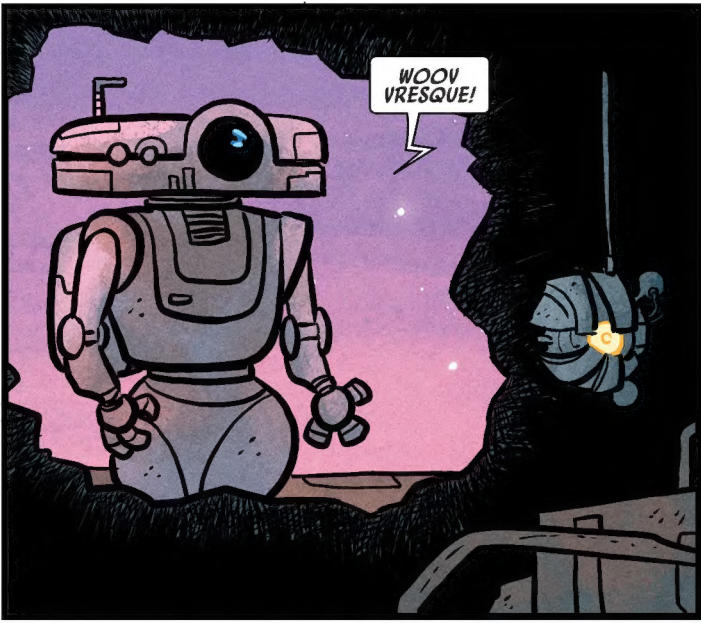
VRRRRRRRR

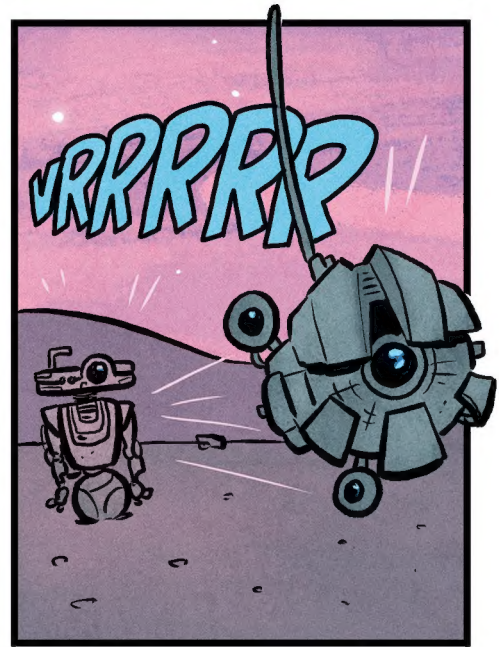
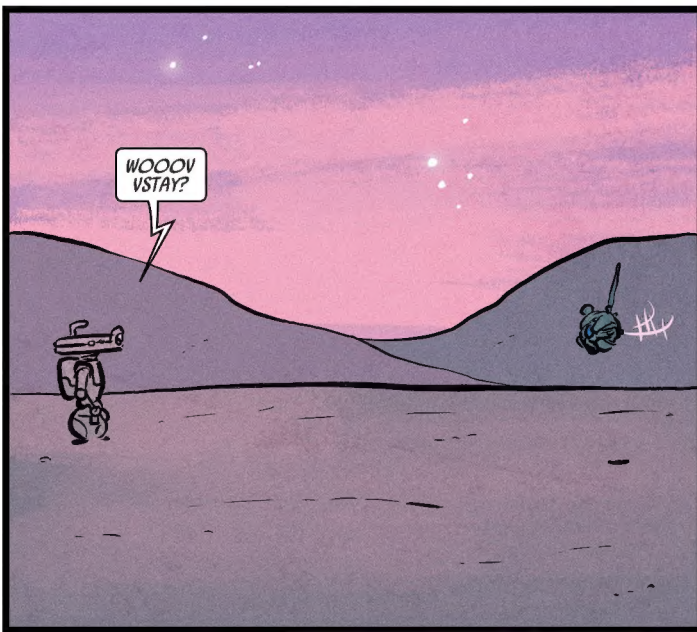
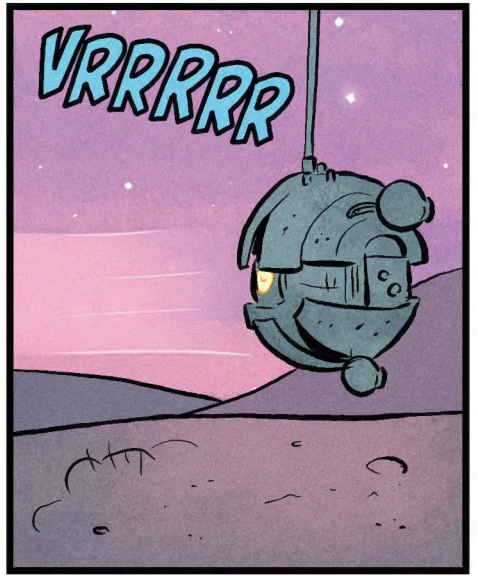
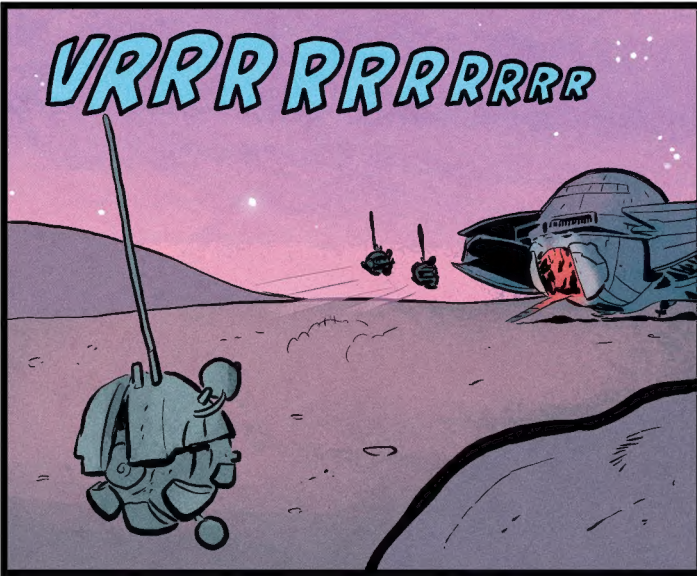
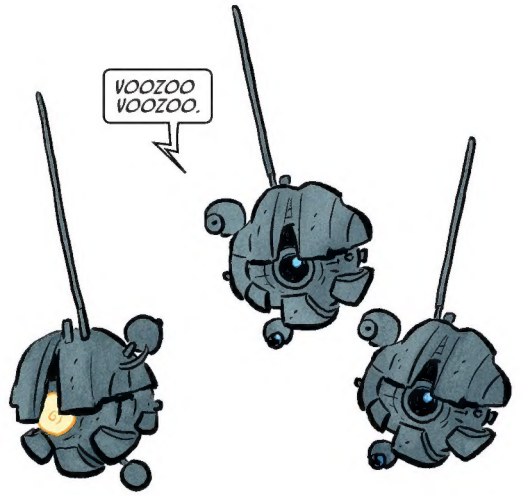
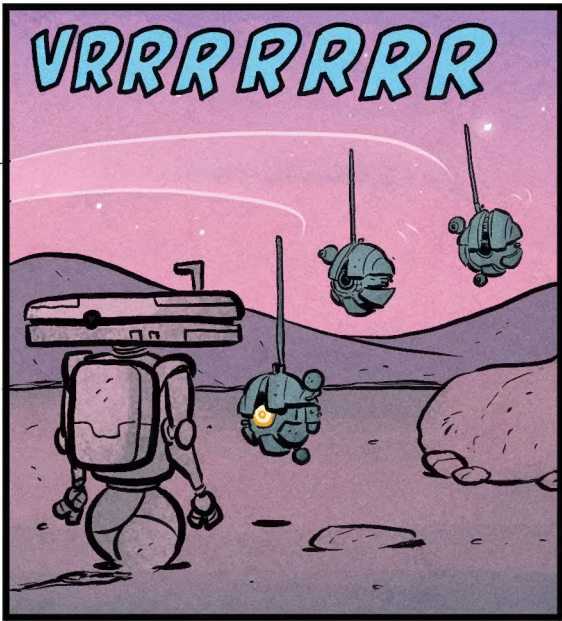


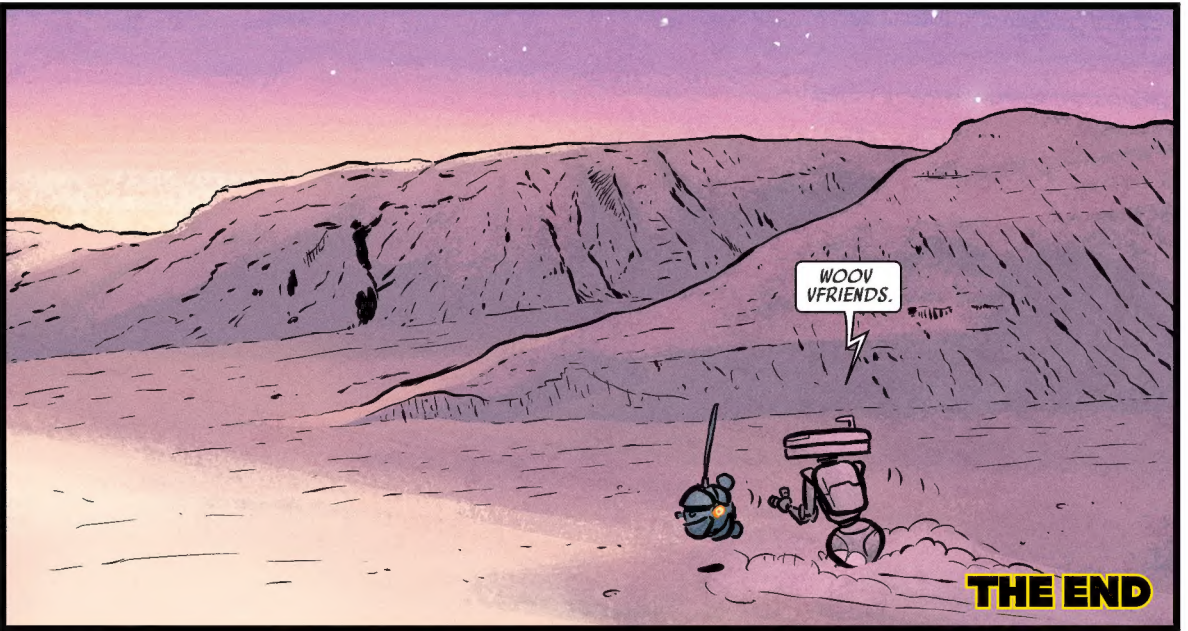
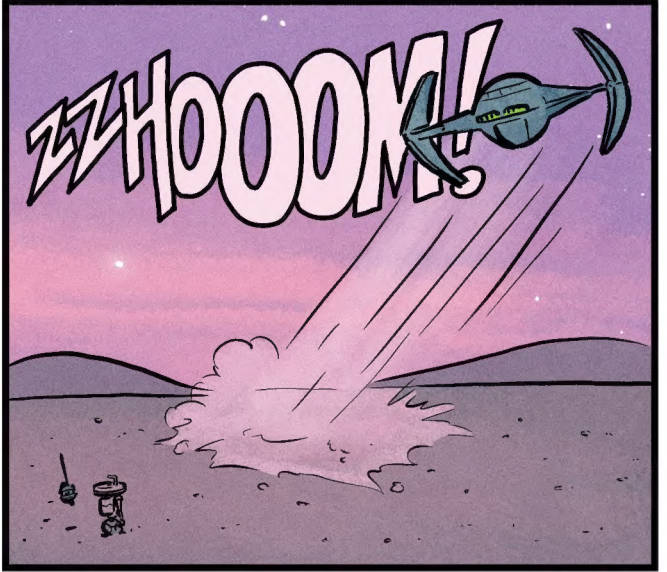
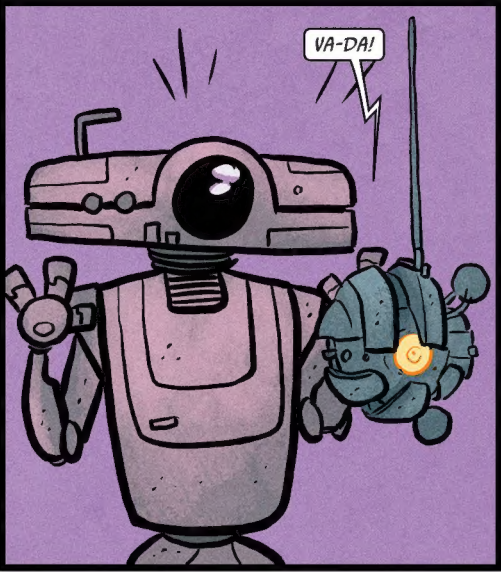
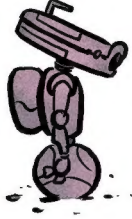
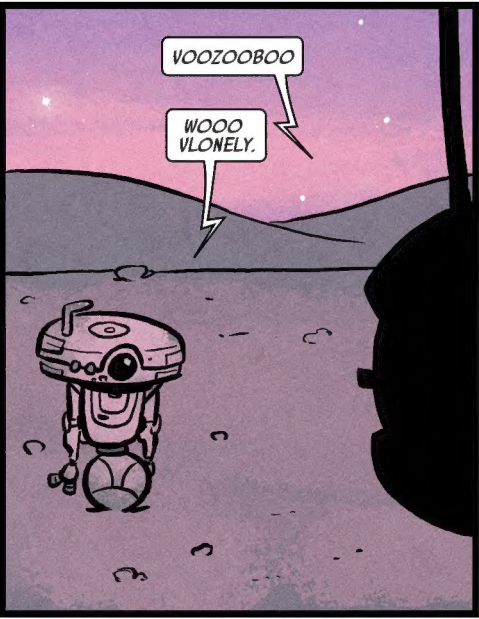












THE END

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NEXT ISSUE:

